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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2174  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS, EAP/RSP KEVIN SHEIVES AND ISN/RA  
CHARLES MAHAFFEY

E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: ARF DISASTER RELIEF PREPAREDNESS  
DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: SECSTATE 74383

11. (SBU) On July 16 PolOff delivered non-paper on improving ARF disaster relief preparedness (ref A) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General for East Asia and Pacific Dissanayake and urged Sri Lanka to support language in the Chairman's Statement at the ARF ministerial on July 24. Dissanayake replied that GSL was supportive of efforts to improve disaster preparedness and thanked the US for its helpful suggestions. While not committing to specifics, Dissanayake called the non-paper a "very good proposal" but highlighted that military cooperation may be a sensitive subject for some ASEAN members. The Director General said he would wait and see what other countries proposed before agreeing to any specific language.  
BLAKE